

FIFTH REPORT  
OF THE  
BRADFORD QUARTERLY  
CONFERENCE,  
OF THE  
Church of Jesus Christ,  
OF  
LATTER DAY SAINTS,

HELD AT THE MEETING ROOM, SUN BRIDGE, BRADFORD.

MAY 8<sup>TH</sup> AND 9<sup>TH</sup>, 1852.

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BRADFORD:  
A O'LEARY, PRINTER, QUEENSGATE & HUSTLERGATE

S O N G .

SPEAK OF ALL THE BEST WE CAN.

Nay, speak no ill, a kindly word  
Will never leave a sting behind;  
And oh, to breathe each tale we've heard,  
Is far beneath a noble mind;  
Full oft a better seed is sown  
By choosing this, the kinder plan,  
And if but little good be known,  
Still let us speak the best we can.

Give me the heart, that fain would hide,  
Would fain another's faults efface;  
What can it pleasure human pride,  
To prove humanity but base;  
Nay, let us reach a higher mode,  
A nobler estimate of man,  
Be earnest in the search for good,  
And speak of all the best we can.

Then speak no ill, but lenient be,  
To others failings as your own,  
If you're the first a fault to see,  
Be not the first to make it known,  
For life is but a passing day,  
No lip may tell how brief its span,  
Then, oh, the little time we stay,  
Let's speak of all the best we can.

## REPORT.

SATURDAY EVENING, MAY 8TH.

TABLE OF REPRESENTATION

[illegible]

\* Taken due by Confarrell.

THE Office Bearers of the Bradford Conference met in the Latter Day Saints' Room, in the South Market, Meadow Lane, Leeds. The meeting was opened with singing and prayer by Elder A. M. Hansen, after which the Council proceeded to arrange some of the business necessary to be brought forward next day, and also to take in the representations of the branches.—Meeting closed with prayer by Elder Robert Menzies.

SUNDAY MORNING  
MAY 9TH.

The Meeting was opened by singing the hymn on the 39th page, prayer by Elder A. M. Harmon, and singing the first hymn.

It was then resolved,—That Elder R. Manziac preside over this meeting of Conference.

Resolved,—That Elders J. Midgley and W. Burton act as Clerks.  
Elder Mensies then made some remarks to the following effect.

Brethren and Sisters—I trust that while we are met together this day, the good spirit of the Lord may dwell amongst us. I realize my own weakness and insufficiency to perform the duties which devolve upon me this day, but I know I enjoy your faith and prayers, and I know also that you have learned to some degree the principle of union; there is nothing I rejoice more in than the unity of the Saints, to see them united in all things, gives me strength; if it was not for this, I would feel my situation more difficult and unpleasant than I do now. We must strive brethren, while met together this day to have no neutral persons amongst us, I want every one to vote, and not be afraid, there is no man or woman in this assembly but ought to be interested in all that shall be brought forward this day. They are matters which should concern us all, and which we should always keep in memory and reduce to practice. I now exhort you, as I have always done, to see that you fail not to perform that which you hold up your hand to do; that you be not like the son spoken of in scripture, who said to his father, 'I go,' but went not.

Brethren, as I said in the beginning we have learned to some extent how to be united, and if we happen to think a little different from each other, we are able to give way, and unitedly support all that may be brought forward for the general good and well-being of the cause of God in this region of the country, and if we can do this willingly, there is no power that can hurt us. Well, we are met to day to transact business in the name of the Lord: it is not preaching and praying alone that constitute our religion; we have also to put to a helping hand to build up Zion. This, of course, is part of what we have met to consider, our object is, to devise the best means to facilitate the building of the Lord's House, roll on this work in the district in which we reside, and assist in gathering the poor saints, and thus help to build up Zion. We have also another object in view, viz.—to seek to blend our feelings together, and drink into one spirit. We are too apt to rest satisfied with the dead letter, without the spirit—I wish every man and woman here to carry from this place with them that spirit and influence which is in this meeting; and particularly you, ye presidents of branches, and brethren of the priesthood in general, it is for you to instil it into the minds of the saints amongst whom you are called to labour.

Elder Mensies then said,—It will be necessary, before we proceed further, to present before the Conference, the various authorities of the church. It seems to me that this is the proper time and place to do so, for if we cannot support the priesthood, there is an end to our business in the meantime.

It was then resolved, 1st, That we sustain by our faith, confidence, and obedience, Brigham Young, Heber C. Kimball, and Willard Richards, as the first Presidency of the church in all the world.

2. That we uphold and sustain the twelve Apostles, viz.—Orson Hyde, Parley P. Pratt, Orson Pratt, Wilford Woodruff, John Taylor, George A. Smith, Amasa Lyman, Ezra T. Benson, Charles C. Rich,

Lorenzo Snow, Erastus Snow, Franklin D. Richards, with Orson Hyde as their President, as the Travelling High Council in all the world.

3. That we sustain Samuel W. Richards, as President of the church in the British Isles, and Levi Richards as his Councillor.

4. That we sustain Moses Clawson as Pastor over this Conference in connexion with the Warwickshire, Derbyshire, and Lincolnshire Conferences.

5. That we sustain Robert Menzies as the President of this Conference.

6. That we sustain all the Priesthood in their places, according to their appointments: the presiding Bishop and Bishopric, the High Council in Zion, the Patriarchs, and all in authority in the church.

Elder Midgley then read the representations of Branches as they had been handed into him on the Saturday Evening, to be found on the table of representations.

The persons to be called to office in the various branches was then presented to the meeting for their approval, as follows:—

Resolved, 1st. That Benjamin Peel, Priest, receive the office of Elder, Joseph Walker, member, the office of Priest; and William Baines, member, the office of Teacher, in the Bradford district.

2. That John Carney, Priest, receive the office of Elder in the Leeds Branch.

3. That Joseph Parks, member, receive the office of Deacon, in the Wakefield Branch.

4. That Robert Horseman and Winter Hastings, members, receive the office of Priests, in the Knaresborough branch.

5. That Francis Fletcher, member, receive the office of Priest, in the York branch.

6. That William Newill, Deacon, receive the office of Priest, in the Tadcaster branch.

7. That Joshua Craven receive the office of Priest, in the Clayton branch.

8. That Jonas Kershaw, Priest, receive the office of Elder in the Queen's Head branch.

9. That the Otley branch be separated from the Idle branch, and that Elder Jonathan Breare continue to preside over it.

10. That Elder Joseph Bean, of Bradford, take the presiding charge of the Idle branch, and that Elder Michael Watson, be released therefrom.

Elder Menzies reminded the Conference of a promise made last quarter, to contribute £13 towards assisting the Irish mission and emigrating L. D. Barnes, &c., but we had failed to make up the half of the sum.

It was then resolved,—That each branch agree to pay a proportion of what remains to be made up, and that Elder Menzies divide it equally according to the numbers of each branch, except those who may have done their good share already. The subject of the debt due to the office at Liverpool was next introduced, on which Elder Menzies remarked to the following effect:—

I wish to see this Conference out of debt with the office at Liverpool, and I know if we choose we can do it. If other Conferences are as much behind, according to their numbers, it must be a difficult matter for the office to get on; they must be lying out of some thousands of pounds. Let us, then, strive to pay for the stock on hand, and then it will be our own, either to circulate or give away to those who are too poor to purchase them. The plan I would recommend to do it by, would be by making what the world call an extraordinary collection every first sabbath of the month and that the travelling Elders' tract fund resolve itself into it, and that it be called Conference Fund, to meet all Conference debts.

Resolved,—That each branch make a collection on the first sabbath of every month, to constitute a fund, to pay all Conference debts with.

Resolved,—That Elder Robert Mendes be Secretary and Elder Joseph Horton, Treasurer, for this Conference, to receive and pay all its monies.

Elder Mendes then stated, that he felt anxious to devise some means whereby he could ascertain more fully how the measures adopted at Conference were carried out during the quarter in the branches. He thought it would be well to divide the Conference into four districts, and that a meeting of the Priesthood in each be held once a month, and by this means he would meet all the office-bearers in the Conference, at least once a month, ascertain how they were getting on, and give such instructions as may be needed.

It was then resolved,—That this Conference be divided into four districts, and that a Priesthood meeting be held in each of them once a month, and that the Bradford, Lile, Clayton, Bingley, Wilsden, and Rodley branches, compose the Bradford district; that Leeds, Wakefield, Horsforth, Knarlesbro', Drighlington, and Otley branches compose the Leeds district; that York, Ellerton, Wheldrake, and Tadcaster branches, compose the York district; and that Halifax, Huddersfield and Queenshead, compose the Halifax district.

The York district Priesthood meeting will be held the first Monday of each month, in the Saints' Meeting Room, York.

The Leeds meeting, the second Tuesday of each month, in the Saints' Room, Leeds.

The Bradford meeting, the third Monday of each month, in the Saints' Room, Bradford.

The Halifax meeting, on the fourth Tuesday of each month, in the Saints' Room, Halifax.

Resolved,—That Elders Horton, Dransfield, and Mendes draw up a letter of recommendation to Elder J. Midgley, on his leaving this Conference.

Resolved,—That Elder Joseph Horton keep the Conference records and minutes.

Meeting closed at 10 minutes past 12, by singing the hymn on the 74th page. Benediction by Elder Mendes.

#### AFTERNOON.

Meeting opened by singing the Hymn on the 49th page, prayer by Elder J. Horton, and singing the hymn on the 73rd page.

The President then gave some instruction to the Presidents of branches, to see that the Elders and Priests were all engaged. He said,—I would counsel you to send them out to the surrounding country to preach, while the weather is fit for open air speaking, and I would say, brethren, do not stoop to contend with every one who may present himself to oppose us. We have got the gospel to preach, and to help to build up the kingdom of God, and if the devil and his agents think they can pull it down, let them try it, it is their business, so let them mind it, and we will mind ours. We have got some parties going about, trying to pull down Mormonism, by lecturing against us,—let them go ahead—do not contend with them, they are perfectly harmless, if we only know how to use them. If we contend with them, we shall partake of their spirit, but if we let them alone, and do not go near them, the people will come to our rooms, and hear us patiently, and much good will be the result. I am not afraid of them destroying the faith of the Saints, for if the lying apostates can do so, the sooner the better; for I would rather they would do so now than wait till they get to the valley.

One of the Travelling Elders, viz. Henry Hartley, desired, on account of his family circumstances, to cease travelling for the present. A call was then made for any one who wished to go out to labour to speak; when Elder J. Burrows of Bradford, rose and offered himself as one. It was therefore resolved.—That as Elder Henry Hartley wished to retire from his present field of labour, that he have his desire, and that Elder J. Burrows take his place.

Resolved also,—That Elders William Heston, William Burton, and John Peel, continue to labour as they are at present.

Resolved,—That the offering for the Temple be sent in to the Secretary of the Conference, at the latest by the 15th June.

Elder Menzies then spoke to the following effect: "Brethren and Sisters, I want to say a few words concerning the Temple Fund, we pledged ourselves, last Conference, to contribute a certain amount of money towards building the House of the Lord, in the valley of the Great Salt Lake; but we have fallen short of what we promised. Now, I want to ask you, brethren, shall it be so again? Let us go ahead, and do all you promised, and go beyond it. I do not know any thing to hinder us. I am not aware that we are poorer than other Conferences, yet we find that the Norwich Conference has paid the full amount voted them, while we have not succeeded in making up one quarter. I feel this to be a stain upon us which ought not to be. Brethren, I would like to hear you say, it shall not be so, and then I know it will not be.

I would also exhort you to bear in mind the Emigration Fund, and as some are rather zealous how it is to be used, I wish to say, that the Presidency wish those sent who are poor, but faithful, old standing members: and, of course, your councils are the proper places for them to be recommended from, so there is no need of jealousy on that score.

Elder A. M. Harmon being called upon, next rose and delivered the following address:—Brethren and sisters: In rising to address you, I do it with peculiar feelings, especially to speak on the subject before

us, which is the building of a temple and our emigration. Why I feel to speak on it is, I know it is one of the tender chords to touch upon temporal things. Many people think that the Saints have to go to the nations of the earth, and preach and build temples, &c., without purse or scrip. The prophets were enabled to look through the vista of time, and see that the Lord would have a house built to his name. Micha says, He will establish it on the tops of the mountains—Mahechi says, He will come suddenly to His temple. From this we learn, that a temple has to be built, and we are the honoured instruments to do this great work in this age. Now we have a temple to build; and the Saints in the valley pay one-tenth of all they possess, in the first place, towards it; after that they pay a tenth of their increase annually as a tithing for this purpose, and for the support of the poor, the spread of the work of God, &c. The Presidency in Zion have beheld the desire of the Saints in this country, to help to roll on the great work, and have granted them the privilege of making a small contribution for that desirable object, but not to pay upon the same principle as the Saints in the valley. But we want you to go there where you can do more than you can here. Those who have gone through the persecutions of Missouri, and various places, and have now got comfortable houses and homes, know how to prize them. We want to build a temple, and it is for you and I to feel something like this, that we would be ill-used if we had not the privilege of assisting. If you comply with the privilege granted, you will help to take such materials as cannot be manufactured there, and when you go you will be able to enjoy the fruits of your own labour—by the principle of union we can accomplish every thing.

Just a few words now upon the Emigration fund. It is spoken of or prophesied that their should be no more said, the Lord liveth that brought up the children of Israel from the land of Egypt, but the Lord liveth that gathered them out of all the countries whither they have been scattered. Now then for the miracle that is going to take place at the gathering of Israel, it will be by that union of the people, for as there is not sufficient means to gather all the saints at once, it will be ~~sent~~ sent back and back again until all the Saints who desire it, will be gathered; the Saints will secure to themselves a blessing by contributing to this fund, it will be within the reach of every saint to get a piece of land. Our temporal and spiritual salvation are indispensably connected together, so much so that they cannot be divided. The Lord has commenced this work, we know it was not conjured up by man, but it is the Lord's work, and we by the council that comes by this regular order, are led on step by step, when it comes through the channel you may know that it is of God. I know that some may say tyranny but it is for the head to lead, were it otherwise, it would be like a snake going tail foremost, when it got to a hole the head could not get through, therefore let the old experienced hands lead the way, and then this work will spread, and it will draw the honest in heart from darkness, I will now give way that others may speak, God bless you all, Amen,

Elder Menzies rose and said,—I am just in my element, brethren.



when I am talking about gathering to Zion, if we feel willing to build a house to the Lord and do his work, we will have his spirit to be with us and there will be no fear of the spirit of Apostasy creeping in upon us, I feel that I cannot let the present opportunity pass without asking my brethren and sisters if we shall not do our part fully in this matter, all those who feel in their hearts, to say and prove by their works that we shall do our full amount towards building the temple let them hold up their hands. (All hands seemed held up, and on the contrary being put there was not a hand up.)

Elder Midgley was then called upon to speak for a short time, which he did to the following effect, Beloved Saints,—I rejoice much this day in your midst, I have been much pleased with what I have seen, heard, and felt, judging from the spirit manifested this day and by my own experience in this Conference, especially during a few months past, and also few things that have been presented to you, I judge you are bordering on better times. It may be that you will not gather all persons into the church who hear you, but you will get the honest in heart, and it is them we want, and if any have got in who are not of this class, we want to get rid of them, as soon as we can, if I rejoice in one thing more than another, it is in this, that no man can stop in this church if his deeds are evil, no matter that they are done in secret, they will soon come to light.

The measures that have been laid before you this day have caused my heart to rejoice, I see there is a good foundation laid for the prosperity of this Conference, the plan for liquidating the debt, is a first rate thing, just go to work and do it and you will be blessed. I feel therefore beloved saints to take the present opportunity of thanking you for the treatment I have met with while travelling in your midst, I have spoken plainly to you, but it is because I loved your salvation, I have had to nurse many, although I am young I have had to nurse some old people, but I am about to give over nursing, I think it is time to let them walk, and if they cannot walk let them creep, and if they cannot creep let them stop. Uphold the presidency of this church if you do you will stand, if not, I can tell what will become of you, but I will leave you to judge.

Well my prayer is that the blessing of heaven and all other necessary blessings may rest upon the President of this Conference and of the branches also, the Lord bless you all. Amen.

President Menzies then made the following remarks:—At the council meeting held in London it was agreed that the Star should be published once a week, some of the Saints think it is too often, and are not taking their usual number. Now I have a question to ask, which I have not got a Saint to answer yet, who is their amongst us who is richer the week they do not get the Star, then the week they get it, if they are not richer the week they get none, they may easily take them every week. Let the officebearers try and equalize the circulation more, there are some being Baptized who will want them, at the same time I would say, let all who do not feel it a manifest injury to take them, keep up their usual supply.

I wish to say to the brethren, when you send money to father Taylor

state for what it is sent, whether for reports, records, tract books, &c. as he will have to keep a separate account of these things, and I would say to those who have not appointed a Secretary and Treasurer for the various funds in your Branches, go to work and do so as soon as possible.

Office bearers present, one of the Secretaries, 40 Elders, 31 Priests, 24 Teachers 9 Deacons.

Meeting closed with singing and benediction by Elder A. M. Harmon.

Meeting opened at half-past 6 o'clock p. m. by singing the Hymn on the 10th page. Prayer by Elder Midgley. Elder Menzies made a few remarks, and introduced A. M. Harmon, from the Great Salt Lake Valley, who delivered a very instructive discourse; meeting closed with singing and benediction by Elder Menzies, and the Saints separated after having enjoyed a time of unequalled peace, union, and happiness together.

### NOTICE.

The Report would have been ready sooner, but many of the Presidents had failed to bring in all the necessary items, and some we have had to do without, but those who find by the Report that all they have done is not reported, must see and get it rectified next quarter. Let the form of representations contained in the report, be the rule for the items wanted next quarter. Next Conference to be held in Bradford, August 8th, 1852—Council on Saturday night previous.

President and Secretary—Robert Menzies, 28, Terrace Street, Holbeck.

Treasurer and Recorder—Joseph Horton, Electric Telegraph Office, Wellington Station, Leeds.

A balance Sheet of the General Book Agent's Account for the Bradford Conference from Feb. 14th, 1852, to May 7th, 1852.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Indebted the Office, March				The Stock on hand.....	54	6	0½
14th, 1852.....	107	1	0½	Debts by different Branches	51	13	0½
Goods received.....	23	13	0				
	140	13	0½	Total.....	105	19	0½
Paid.....	35	0	0	Due to the Office..	103	19	0½
Indebted to the Office.....	105	13	0½	Due to the Agent, T. Taylor	0	6	8

The Treasurer's Account of the Perpetual Emigration Fund are as follows up to May 7th, 1852.

Received of different Branches .....	7	14	0½
Paid to Liverpool .....	5	18	11
On hand.....	1	13	7½

JOSEPH BEAN and THOMAS HANSON, Auditors, this 7th day of May, 1852.